

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) :** (a) to (c). The relevant file has been taken over by the Special Police Establishment, Bombay, for making some inquiries. The required information would be laid on the table of the House immediately the file is received back from the Special Police Establishment.

**VISIT BY U.S.A. JOURNALISTS**

**\*816. SHRI BABURAO PATEL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of USA journalists who were recently brought by Shri J. N. Ganju to tour India and the positions occupied by them with the total cost of their trip and hospitality to us and the dates and duration of their stay;

(b) whether it is a fact that these journalists were taken to Nathu La and other prohibited border areas and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said visit by the group of U.S. journalists was arranged at the instance of the Indian Government or was fixed by Shri J. N. Ganju on his own initiative; and

(d) the benefit which is expected to accrue to us by providing a free visit to these journalists?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) :** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2123/67.]

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The visit was arranged at the instance of the Government.

(d) In order to promote better understanding in USA of India's efforts at economic development, including agricultural development, and with a view to strengthening our own efforts to publicise these aspects, the Government decided to invite a group of journalists and provide them an opportunity to see for themselves the present stage of development in India.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY STATE BANK OF INDIA TO AGRICULTURISTS**

**\*821. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has prepared a scheme for providing financial assistance to the agriculturists on a large scale;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the total funds to be set aside by the bank for the purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) :** (a) The State Bank and its subsidiaries have been providing indirect and supplemental finance for cooperatives and other agencies for agricultural purposes. No new scheme for providing large scale financial assistance directly to agriculturists has been formulated.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**INCOME-TAX WRITTEN OFF**

**\*823. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of income-tax written off during the assessment year 1967-68 so far;

(b) the names and addresses of each party having the income-tax demand of more than rupees one lakh whose income-tax was written off during the above period along with amount thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received any information about the cases of the said year in which the demand was wrongly written off; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) :** (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.